THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate nor set down aught in malice."

No. 639 Wednesday, Dec. 10, 1823. Price 1d.

Drury Lane Theatre.

GUY MANNERING.

A PECULIAR interest has, it would appear, been created during the present season, respecting the first appearance of Mr. BRAHAM, merely because Mr. SINCLAIR was to return to his station at Covent Garden, after a six years absence in Italy. For our part, we did not enter into this undue feeling on an occasion, which we did not look forward to with any peculiar expectation. We previously were well acquainted with the respective powers Nature had endowed each of these excellent singers, and felt conscious that although the voice of a BRAHAM was a production which was not to be rivalled, perhaps, in the course of many centuries, yet there existed an attraction in SINCLAIR's fine tones, that might have its sway without interfering with the admiration that BRAHAM must command, until the inevitable advances of *Time*, deprive him of the power he yet possesses, to charm the well-tuned and tasteful ear. Thus influenced, we, last night, took our seat, in company with an eminent musical composer, whose admiration of BRAHAM amounted even to enthusiasm, because he felt he was the child of genius, in his profession. It was impossible to resist, even had we been prejudiced against Mr. BRAHAM, the inimitable flood of melody that poured, now like a gently flowing stream, and now like a cataract, upon our senses. It is not to be denied, that we have heard this famous singer in finer voice, but we recollected, nay, we had evidence of his recent indisposition. If there was an occasional diminution of that *soul*—that *spirit*, which we know usually exists in BRAHAM's song, it was but *occasional*—it was but the temporary failing of physical power, whilst the purest taste remained. He gave the *Echo Duet*, and first song, in a beautiful style, and it was only by a feeling consideration for Mr. BRAHAM's health, that the audience were withheld from encoring them. The chasteness of style, if not of spirit, with which "*Love's young Dream*," was given, compelled the judicious audience to an *encore*; and after the admirers of *classic singing*, (if such a term be admissible) had heard BRAHAM's "*Scots wha hae' wi' Wallace bled*," they forgot every thing but their own gratification, and made him sing it *three* times; and the vocalist rose each time in exertion, until he equalled his finest efforts.

We have now to speak of Miss STEPHENS, the interesting STEPHENS, whose manners, and whose vocal powers, reach every heart. There is a melting sweetness of cadence, in general, put forth by this amiable young lady, that rivets attention to her warbling.—WELCH had a fortunate pupil in her, and the public a fortunate favorite. She has held that rank in her profession, until *wealth* and *esteem*, have flowed in upon her, and it is delightful to a British Public, to at once enjoy merit, and assist in *substantially* rewarding it. Miss STEPHENS, the once retired and accidental pupil of THOMAS WELCH, now rides in her carriage! She was, as she always is, received with applause, and was loudly encored in "*The Highland Laddie*," and applauded in all her songs. Miss POVEY possesses much merit, and Miss CUBITT had some applause.—The house was full.

Covent Garden Theatre.

The Cabinet, and *Timour the Tartar*, drew an excellent house here last night. Mr. SINCLAIR, as *Prince Orlando*, acted and sang with his accustomed excellence, and was again encored in the beautiful and difficult *Polacca*, "*No more by sorrow chased.*" Miss PATON came in for a due share of applause, by her admirable performance of *Floretta*. She sang "*The Bird in yonder Cage confined*," with such sweetness, that it was rapturously encored.

ADELPHI.—The performances at this Theatre, last night, were very well attended.

OLYMPIC.—The *Death of Giovanni; or, the Shades of Logic, Tom, and Jerry*, was repeated here last night, with considerable success. *Love's Vagaries* followed, in which Mr. POWER, as *Jack Rattle*, was loudly applauded. *The Committee* concluded the entertainments.

The little *Theatre of Variety*, in Catherine-street, had numerous visitors last night.

The Scenery in The Cataract of the Ganges.

ACT I. Scene 1. Field of Battle, (by Moonlight) after the Conflict—*Stanfield*. 2. Hindu Cottage, with distant View of the Country of Guzerat—*Stanfield*. 3. Hall of Audience in the Rajah's Palace—*Marinari*. 4. Lake, and Mountainous Scenery, with the Burning of Robinson's Hut, and the distant Beacon of the Rajah—*Roberts*. 5. Hindu Terrace and Gardens—*Roberts*. 6. Grand Hindu Temple, in which will be introduced a Splendid Bridal Procession.

ACT 2.—Scene 1. The Shores of Guzerat, in the Gulph of Cambay—*Stanfield*. 2. Hindu Terrace and Gardens, (as before)—*Roberts*. 3. Exterior of the Pagoda of Brahma in Jaggernaut—*Marinari*. 4. Sanctuary of the Idol Brahma—*Marinari*. 5. Encampment of the Mahrattas—*Roberts*. 6. The Pile of Sacrifice on the Ganges—*Stanfield* and *Andrews*. 7. and 8. Conflagration of the Wood, discovering the last Scene of the Cataract—*Stanfield*

☞ IT is respectfully suggested to our Friends to be careful, in going to the Theatre, not to be imposed on by an imitation of this Paper.

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Published also by C. HARRIS, 25, Bow Street, Covent Garden; CHAPPEL and SON Royal Exchange; and may be had, by order, of all Newsmen.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, the Comedy of The

Man of the World,

Sir Pertinax Macsycophant, Mr YOUNG,
Egerton, Mr COOPER,
Lord Lumbercourt, Mr BARTLEY,
Sidney, Mr ABBOTT, Melville, Mr EGERTON,
Counsellor Plausible, Mr EVANS,
Sergeant Eitherside, Mr CHAPMAN,
Sam, Mr PARSLOE, John, Mr ATKINS,
Tomlins, Mr LEY,
Lady Macsycophant, Mrs PEARCE,
Lady Rodolpha Lumbercourt, Mrs CHATTERLEY,
Constantia, Miss BEAUMONT,
Betty Hint, Mrs GIBBS, Nanny, Miss BODEN,

After which, in 3 acts, (with Curtailments) the Opera of

CLARI;

Or, the Maid of Milan.

Rolamo. Mr BARTLEY, Jocoso, Mr COMER,
The Duke Vivaldi, Mr ABBOTT,
Page, Master LONGHURST, Nicolo, Mr J ISAACS
Giulio, Mr TINNEY, Claudio, Mr PYNE,
Geronio, Mr KEELEY, Nimpedo, Mr MEADOWS,
Clari, Miss M. TREE,
Fidalma, Mrs VINING, Vespina, Miss LOVE,
Ninetta, Miss HALLANDE,

Characters in the EPISODE.

Nobleman, Mr BAKER, Pelegrino, Mr CHAPMAN
Wife of Pelegrino, Mrs PEARCE,
Leoda, Miss BEAUMONT.

To-morrow, The Lord of the Manor, with Timour the Tartar.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Comedy of

The Hypocrite.

Dr Cantwell, Mr DOWTON,
Maw-worm, Mr LISTON, Seward, Mr YOUNGE,
Sir John Lambert, Mr POWELL,
Darnley, Mr PENLEY, Tipstaff, Mr READ,
Col. Lambert, Mr WALLACK,
Servants, Mess. SUTTON and COLSON,
Old Lady Lambert, Mrs HARLOWE,
Charlotte, Mrs W. WEST, Betty, Miss GREEN,
Young Lady Lambert, Mrs ORGER.

After which, The Ballet of The

Halt of the Caravan.

Including the national Dances of
The Pas Russe—The Spanish Bolero.
A Hornpipe A L'anglaise, and a Grand Asiatic Pas de Deux.
Principal Dancers, Mr & Mrs O. BYRNE, Mr & Mrs NOBLE,

To Conclude with a Grand Drama called The

Cataract of the Ganges.

Ackbar, (*Emperor of Hindustan*) Mr POWELL,
Jam Salab, (*The Rajah of Guzerat*) Mr. YOUNGE,
Mokarra, (*Grand Brahmin of the Jahrejah Tribe*) Mr WALLACK,
Iran, (*a young Hindu Warrior,*) Mr. PENLEY,
Mokagee, (*a Hindu Peasant*) Mr J. BARNES,
Ambassador, (*from the Emperor of Hindustan*) Mr WEBSTER,
Mordaunt, (*an Officer in the English Army,*) Mr ARCHER,
Jack Robinson, (*Mordaunt's Servant,*) Mr HARLEY,
Combatants by Messrs. BLANCHARD, PAULO, & HOWELL,
Dessa, (*Daughter of the Emperor of Hindustan*) Miss PHILLIPS
Zamine, (*of Guzerat.*) Miss L. KELLY,
Matali, (*a female Hindu Peasant of the Jhalla,*) Miss GREEN,
Ubra, (*her Daughter*) Miss POVEY,

To-morrow, The Cabinet, with Cupid and Folly.